

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 6, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

Furthermore, as the bits per inch (BPI) and tracks per inch (TPI) increase on hard disk drives, error recovery becomes less predictable, because these localized areas of non-uniformity in the magnetic media have a more significant impact on the read signal. This traditionally has been compensated for by requiring tighter design limits on the distribution of materials which are used for the magnetic media. However, these design limits are becoming more difficult to control, and the material distribution in the magnetic media is playing an increased role in determining the frequency and type of error which occurs in an individual drive. These factors result in many more disk drives being outliers with respect to the population of disk drives. Accordingly, it would be advantageous to have an enhanced error recovery routine for outlier drives.

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract, which begins on the next page: